

## ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

### METHOD FOR DETECTING PATHOGENIC AGENTS

The invention provides methods and kits for collection of cervical/vaginal specimen. The  
5 specimen is collected for the purpose of detecting the presence or absence of etiological agents,  
*e.g.*, bacterial or viral agents, including but not limited to human papilloma virus (HPV). The  
endocervical cells is not required for HPV testing or Pap smear. The methods and kits allow the  
self-sampling without the aid of trained medical personnel.